

To this temple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, today! With your constant, loving kindness hear your people as they pray. Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the Way.

Here renew your servants' vision, that by faith they may attain peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain, Tears and grief transformed to gladness in Your everlasting reign.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Thank-You, God for continuing to guide us with grace and lead us with love through these days. We are surrounded by saints whose fingerprints have shaped this place. We are surrounded by sisters and brothers right now who lead faithfully, love openly, and prayerfully seek to be Your people. For moments when frustration or fear caused our words to be less-than-loving, we ask for forgiveness from one another. For times we held too tightly to our way, help us loosen our grip. Holy One, You call us into a community where we not only *talk* about grace but seek to share grace; where love goes from a theoretical idea to embodied practice. Guide our church in the coming days; inspire our worship; infuse our small group to be a space we encounter You; bless our amazing choir; strengthen our staff and leaders; and let Your presence burst forth from here in ministry to Sarasota and beyond. In the name of the One who promises to be present whenever and wherever two or three gather, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service
(vs. 1 & 4)

#495

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.

SERMON

Savoring and Shining

ANTHEM

True Light
Dr. Marsha Kindall-Smith, pianist

Keith Hampton

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

#181

**You are the salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!**

Refrain

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!**

**You are the light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! *Refrain***

**You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! *Refrain***

**We are blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! *Refrain***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Romantische Stücke

Antonín Dvořák

Hermann Berndt, cello; Lynne Woodman, piano

Announcements ~ Sunday, January 29, 2023

2023 flower chart is now available!! Please consider giving altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday. You can call Sherry in the church office. Thank you!!

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 29th immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary TODAY!! The meeting will be live cast on **YouTube and Facebook**. Please stay on-line after the postlude and we will begin the Annual Meeting as soon as possible. This year at our annual meeting we will vote on: Financial Reports 2022; Budget 2023; Nominating Report; By-law Revisions

Come one, come all, to the Women's Association's lunch and program on **Tuesday, February 7**, at 11:30a.m. in Syster Hall. **Linda Burry**, a fitness instructor for Crunch, will talk to us about "Mind, Body, and Spirit." Attendees are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and clothes for gentle movements anyone can do. Linda is very much a woman of faith and believes

strongly in the mind/body/spirit connections. Luncheon costs \$12. Sign up after either Sunday service or call the church office at 941-953-7044.

January 29 ~ Classical Black ~ Black Excellence in Classical Music

5:00pm at The Palladium ~ St. Petersburg

The Woodson African American Museum of Florida in partnership with the St. Petersburg Opera Company and the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc are presenting this performance featuring all black classical performers. Purchase tickets at: <https://mypalladium.org/events/classic-black/>

February 2 ~ Traces of the Trade

6:30 pm at the Mildred Sainer Pavillion at New College ~ 5313 Bay Shore Rd. Sarasota
A journey by filmmaker Katrina Browne and nine of her cousins into the dark past of the slave trade which enriched their white New England family. The descendants of the DeWolf family of Rhode Island, one of the largest slave trading families in American history, retrace their family's involvement in the Triangle Trade from New England to Ghana and back to America. Dain Perry, one of the nine cousins featured in the film, and his wife Constance will facilitate a conversation on race, reconciliation and healing. Food will be available at 5:30 pm, followed by the film and discussion at 6:30 pm. **THIS EVENT IS FREE! REGISTER BELOW.**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/traces-of-the-trade-documentary-film-screening-tickets-505454687577>

It is me standing in the need of prayer

You are invited to pay attention to and set an intention toward prayer. **Tuesdays in February (7, 14, 21, and 28) at 1 pm in the Oasis Center and zoom**, there is an opportunity to both be in prayer and talk about prayer. The sessions will be recorded, posted to YouTube and Facebook so you can watch when convenient. In this month, as we celebrate Valentines Day, the gift of God's love would be sweeter than chocolate, more abundant than those heart-shaped hard candies, and remind each of us that you are named and known by God as "Beloved". Please contact Pastor Wes for the Zoom link.

Saturday, February 4th is our Leadership Retreat. We invite all those serving on Teams to attend! Coffee and refreshments begin at 8:45 am with the **program starting at 9:15 am**. This is a time to connect with others and prepare for the coming year. **This will be a hybrid event for those who need to Zoom**. Please contact Wes for the zoom link. There will be time for each Team to meet. If you have any questions please see Nancy Morris or Pastor Wes.

Save the date ~ Artist in Residence ~ Sunday, February 19 at 9 and 11 am

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Eric Nelson as our artist in residence. Eric Nelson is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at Emory University. He is also the conductor and Artistic Director of Atlanta Master Chorale. Dr. Nelson's choirs have performed throughout

the world, including London, Rome, Krakow, Berlin, Leipzig, Prague, Moscow, Seoul, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Sydney Opera House. On this special Sunday, Dr. Nelson will direct our amazing choir through **five anthems**, accompanied by special guest musicians. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

CONTAGIOUS HOPE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON CLIMATE

February 25, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. –

Featuring keynote speaker, Rev. Brooks Berndt, Minister of Environmental Ministry, United Church of Christ and noted author of *Cathedral on Fire*.

Panelists include Jeanne Dubi, President of Sarasota Audubon Society, Dr. Frank Alcock, Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies at New College, and retired physics instructor, Jerry Larson, who was instrumental in inspiring Congregational UCC of Punta Gorda to adopt solar power.

A vegetarian lunch will be served after the speakers. Please make a reservation to help us with our planning. To reserve, email Sarah Melcher at melchersj8856@gmail.com.

This event is sponsored by the Creation Justice Team at FCUCC.

SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity News ~

The SURE Affordable Housing Team will meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Room 203 Saturday, February 4th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Calendar:

Sunday, January 29 ~ Annual Meeting Sunday

Sunday Worship, 9 am, sanctuary

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online

Annual meeting will begin immediately following the postlude

Tuesday, January 31

Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Wednesday, February 1

Lay Visitation, 10 am, Hybrid

Bible Study, 11 am, Hybrid ~ Oasis and Zoom

Sacred Conversation on Race, 3 pm, Zoom

Choir, 7 pm, Chapel

Thursday, February 2

Drumming, 11 am, Oasis Center

Saturday, February 4

Leadership Retreat, 8:45 am, Syster Hall

Sunday, February 5

Sunday Worship, 9 am, sanctuary

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in the sanctuary and online

Birthday Sunday fellowship, noon, Syster Hall